The details of the applicants found eligible for consideration for award of dealerships at different locations would be available with the Executive Director (Marketing) of the Company.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise, in view of reply to (e) above.

Diversion of Kerosene from PDS

2684. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research has brought out that 38 per cent of the entire supply of kerosene to the Public Distribution system, targeted for supply to the below poverty line population, is pilfered and sold in the black market; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken to check this diversion of kerosene from the Public Distribution System to ensure that the targeted below poverty line population can avail of the assigned supplies, especially in the far flung areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December, 2004 a study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER in its report, submitted in October, 2005, has estimated the total leakage/ diversion of kerosene meant for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) as 38.6% of total sale of PDS kerosene in 2004.

(b) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration and black-marketing.

Effective 2nd October, 2005, Government have launched "Jan Kerosene Pariyojana" as a pilot project in 414 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory to strengthen the PDS kerosene distribution mechanism and control the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration.

With a view to checking adulteration, the Government has asked OMCs to take the following further measures:—

(i) Inspection, certification and auditing of retail outlets (ROs) by reputed external agencies;

(ii) Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks (TTs) transporting Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Kerosene through Global Positioning System (GPS);

(iii) Drawal/testing of samples by independent agencies;

(iv) Automation of retail outlets

(v) To implement the Marker System in Kerosene.

Bottling centres in North-East

2685. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum explored domestically and the quantity outsourced in 2005-2006;

(b) the percentage of tax part of the price of petrol, diesel and Kerosene;

(c) whether the cyclinders of cooking gas are scarce for the last few months in the whole of the country with particular reference to the North-East; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the bottling centres of the North-East will be strengthened; and

(e) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The quantity of domestic crude oil production in the country during 2005-06 was 32.19 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and the crude oil import was about 99.4 MMT. The quantity of petroleum products produced in the country during 2005-06 was 124.1 MMT and petroleum products imported was 11.7 MMT.